1.   A system that provides distributed management of one or more print jobs within a networked computer environment, the system comprising:

a network;

a plurality of client computer devices connected to the network, wherein the plurality of client computer devices are configured to participate in bi-directional communication across the network;

a printing device for processing a print job initiated at one of the plurality of client computer devices, wherein the printing device is connected to the network;

a broadcast sent from a first client computer device to a second client computer device across the network, wherein the first and second client computer devices are of the plurality of computer devices, and wherein at least one of the first and second client computer devices participates in a centralized management of the print job.

2.   A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the broadcast indicates an intent of the first client computer device to participate in a distributed management of a print job.

3.   A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the broadcast indicates an intent to despool print data to the printing device.

4.   A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the broadcast indicates an intent to set a status for the print job.

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5.   A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the broadcast indicates an intent to get a current status for the print job.

6.   A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the broadcast indicates an intent to set a status on the printing device.

7.   A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the broadcast indicates an intent to get a current status for the printing device.

8.   A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the broadcast provides a request for print queue information.

9.   A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the broadcast provides a request for a print queue change.

10.   A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the broadcast provides a request for administrative authority.

11.   A system as recited in claim 10, wherein the request for administrative authority is over at least one of:

    (i)   a print queue;

    (ii)   a printing device;

    (iii)   a computer device; and

    (iv)   a global managerial system configuration.

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12.   In a system that includes a plurality of client computer devices connected to a

printing device via a network, a method for processing a print job, the method comprising the

steps for:

initiating a first print job at a first client computer device;

5   transmitting a first broadcast across the network from the first client computer

device to a second client computer device, wherein the first broadcast indicates an

intent to despool print data to the printing device that corresponds to the first print

job;

receiving a first response to the first broadcast from the second client

10   computer device; and

despooling the print data corresponding to the first print job directly from the

first client computer device to the printing device to process the first print job.

13.   A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the step for initiating includes the

15   step for determining whether to perform cluster printing, and wherein if the cluster printing is

to be performed, utilizing the printing device in performing the cluster printing.

14.   A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the step for initiating includes the

step for determining whether to perform intelligent routing, and wherein if the intelligent

20   routing is to be performed, utilizing the printing device in performing the intelligent routing.

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15.   A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the step for receiving includes the step for determining whether the first response includes a conflict for despooling the print data to the printing device, and wherein if the conflict is included in the first response, performing the step for resolving the conflict.

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16.   A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the step for receiving includes the step for determining whether the first response includes an objection to despooling the print data to the printing device, and wherein if the objection is included in the first response, performing the step for resolving the objection.

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17.   A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the step for receiving includes receiving no response from the second client computer device.

18.   A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the step for despooling includes using a spooler to despool the print job from at least one print queue to a print processor, and wherein the spooler and the print processor are local to the first client computer device.

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19.   A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the step for despooling includes using a print processor to despool the print job from at least one print queue, and wherein the print processor is local to the first client computer device.

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20.   A method as recited in claim 12, wherein prior to performing the step for transmitting the first broadcast, performing the steps for:

initiating a second print job at a third client computer device;

ordering the first broadcast and a second broadcast on a queue; and

managing the queue.

21.   A method as recited in claim 20, wherein the step for managing is performed by at least one of:

(i)   a print driver; and

(ii)   a print assistant.

22.   A method as recited in claim 20, further comprising the steps for:

transmitting the second broadcast across the network from the third client computer device to the second client computer device, wherein the second broadcast indicates an intent to despool print data to the printing device that corresponds to the second print job;

receiving a second response to the second broadcast from the second client computer device; and

despooling the print data corresponding to the second broadcast directly from the third client computer device to the printing device to process the second print job.

23.   A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the third client computer device is the first client computer device.

24. A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the step for despooling the print data further includes the steps for:

> updating one or more print queues; and

> setting a status of the first print job.

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25. A method as recited in claim 24, wherein the step for despooling the print data further includes the steps for:

> removing the first print job from one or more local print queues; and

> removing a remote entry of the first print job from a remote print queue.

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26. A method as recited in claim 25, wherein if the print data corresponding to the first print job is in a printer ready format, the step for despooling the print data further includes the step for using a print processor to send the print data to a port manager.

15 27. A method as recited in claim 25, wherein if the print data corresponding to the first print job is in a journaled format, the step for despooling the print data further includes the steps for:

> using a print processor to play back the journaled data to a printer driver;

> spooling the print data to a spooler; and

20 sending the print data to a port manager.

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28.　A computer program product for implementing within a networked computer system a method for processing a print job, the computer program product comprising:

computer readable medium for providing computer program code means utilized to implement the method, wherein the computer program code means is comprised of executable code for implementing the steps for:

transmitting a broadcast across a network from a first client computer device to a second client computer device, wherein the broadcast indicates an intent to despool print data corresponding to a print job to a printing device;

receiving a response to the broadcast from the second client computer device; and

despooling the print data directly from the first client computer device to the printing device to process the print job.

29.　A computer program product as recited in claim 28, wherein the step for receiving a response includes the steps for:

determining whether the response includes a conflict from the client computer device to despool the print data to the printing device, wherein if the conflict is included in the response, resolving the conflict; and

determining whether the response includes an objection from the client computer device to despool the print data to the printing device, wherein if the objection is included in the response, resolving the objection.

30.　A computer program product as recited in claim 28, wherein the step for receiving a response includes receiving no response from the second client computer device.

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31.   A computer program product as recited in claim 28, wherein the step for despooling the print data includes using a spooler to despool the print job from at least one print queue to a print processor.

5   32.   A computer program product as recited in claim 28, wherein the step for despooling the print data includes using a print processor to despool the print job from at least one print queue.

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